

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5-6, 8-18 and 26-29 are pending in the captioned application and stand rejected. Applicants hereby cancel claims 1, 6, 17 and 26-29. Rejections directed toward these claims should now be withdrawn. Applicants have also amended claims 5 and 18. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 5, 8-16 and 18 in view of the amendments and the following arguments.

Applicants have amended claims 5 and 18. Claim 5 has been amended to include the limitation of now cancelled claim 6. Claim 18 has been similarly amended. Applicants submit that as such, no new matter has been introduced.

The only issue remaining is whether the claims, as amended, are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 102(e) by Belew et al. (US 6,852,230 or WO 02/053288). Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are novel and not anticipated.

Applicants submit that Belew et al. relates to a method of desalting, not a method for antibody purification. Belew et al. used IgG as a ‘model protein’ to characterize the new resins (i.e., testing breakthrough capacities, in order to show that the ligands are of the high salt tolerant type). See column 15, lines 50-51: “using a mobile phase containing, in addition to the buffer components, a relatively high concentration of salt”. Thus Belew et al. used IgG or BSA to test a desalting method (column 15, lines 43-47). Nothing in Belew et al. shows that the resins can be used as a first chromatography resin (i.e., capture step) for antibody purification from a cell

culture liquid or a fermentation broth, which are complex mixtures including host cell proteins, nucleic acids etc. Belew et al. does not show or suggest that antibodies from a cell culture liquid or a fermentation broth can be purified according to Applicants' claimed method.

Hence the only conclusion one could draw from Belew et al. would be that the mixed-mode resin could resist high salt condition and desalt a mixture containing antibodies. Applicants assert that there is no teaching which suggests that it could be used for the purification of antibodies from complex mixture such as a cell culture liquid or a fermentation broth.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 5, 8-16 and 18.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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